

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 have been amended to more clearly claim the subject matter of the present invention.

Reference numeral 12B was added to Figure 3 to identify an outer surface of a bottom wall of a lower case 12. The specification was correspondingly amended in paragraphs [0037] and [0051]. In addition, reference numeral 12 in Figure 5B was replaced with reference numeral 12a to indicate a drainage port formed on the outer surface 12B of the bottom wall.

No new matter is added by this Amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to for allegedly not showing the bottom wall of the box, and a water-leading groove formed on the outer surface of the bottom wall. According to the Office Action, the Patent Office suggested showing a reference numeral for the bottom wall of the box.

In Figure 3, reference numeral 12B has been added to better indicate the outer surface of the bottom wall of the box. A revised formal drawing of Figure 3 is attached hereto. Paragraphs [0037] and [0051] of the specification have been correspondingly amended to further include reference numeral 12B.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification allegedly does not reasonably provide enablement for the water-leading groove formed on the outer surface of the bottom wall. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully direct the attention of the Patent Office to paragraphs [0038] through [0041] and Figures 5A-5C. The water-leading groove 12a-3 is continuous with a tip of a cut-out portion 12a-2. As shown in Figures 5A and 5B, the water-leading groove 12a-3 and the cut-out portion 12a-2 are continuous with each other through a thin continuous portion 12a-4.

Figure 5A is a perspective view of a drainage port 12a and Figure 5B is a plan view of the drainage port 12a, both of which show water-leading grooves 12a-3, cut-out portions 12a-2 and thin continuous portions 12a-4. Figure 5C is a sectional view of the drainage port 12a taken along line I-I of Figure 5B and shows the side profile of the water-leading groove 12a-3 formed into a lower case 12.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification clearly discloses the claimed subject matter of claim 1 in a manner sufficient to have enabled the invention of claim 1. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification clearly describes and shows, with Figures 3-6 and the corresponding description thereof in the specification, the relationship between the water-leading groove 12a-3, the cut-out portion 12a-2 and the thin continuous portion 12a-4 such that an ordinary worker skilled in the art would have been enabled to make the claimed drainage structure of the electric parts accommodation box without undue experimentation. Thus, the subject matter of claim 1 is enabled and fully supported by the specification.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection to the specification are respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 was rejected as allegedly being indefinite as to what element the phrase "a tip of" referred. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a tip of said cut-out portion" to address the rejection.

Claim 3 was rejected because the phrase "said tip of said triangular cut-out portion" lacked antecedent basis. Claim 3 has been amended to correct this issue.

Claim 4 was rejected because the phrase "said battery box" lacked antecedent basis. Claim 4 has been amended to correct this issue.

Claim 4 was also rejected because the phrase "said drainage port and said water-leading groove are formed on a lower case of said fuse box" was allegedly unclear. Claim 4 has been amended to replace "a lower case" with "said outer surface of said bottom wall" to better conform with the subject matter of claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is clear and definite in accordance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim 5 was rejected because the phrase "a plurality of drainage ports are formed on the bottom wall" was allegedly unclear. Applicants respectfully submit that the plurality of drainage ports are clearly described in paragraph [0037] of the specification and are shown with reference numerals 12a, 12b and 12c in Figure 3 as being formed on the bottom wall of the box.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the clear explanation of the terminology in the specification, claim 5 is clear and definite in accordance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, and the drawing objection.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:
Drawing Replacement Sheets

Date: April 19, 2004

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